

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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BERTRAM P. BROWN, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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April 19, 1941

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

1940 United States Birth Rate Jumps to 18.0

Approximately 2,350,000 boys and girls were born in the United States last year—the Nation's largest "baby crop" in a decade, according to preliminary 1940 figures compiled by the Division of Vital Statistics, Bureau of the Census.

Nearly 100,000 more children banged rattles and cut their first teeth than in 1939. The increase lifted the national rate from 17.3 to 18.0 live births per 1,000 population.

The provisional death rate rose from 10.6 to 10.8 deaths per 1,000 population, and the infant mortality rate decreased slightly from 48.0 to 47.9 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The rise in the birth rate is the sharpest since 1920, the year after the American soldiers returned home from overseas. From a rate of 22.3, it rose to 23.7 in 1920 and 24.2 the following year. Then it began a steady decline to the lowest point in the country's history (16.6) in 1933. Since then it has risen irregularly.

Despite the jump in 1940 births, probably only enough children are being born to replace the present generation. The net reproduction rate indicates that if the average birth and death rates for 1935 to 1939 continued for a generation, the population of the United States would fall off about 4 per cent every

generation. The new figures may bring this rate for 1940 back to approximately 100 per cent replacement.—U. S. Bureau of the Census.

PSITTACOSIS CONTROL

During the month of March, 1941, no interstate shipping permits were issued, inasmuch as the ban on such shipments is still in effect. Fifty-four shipping certificates for 307 larger psittacine birds were issued. Thirty-seven shell parakeet aviaries were inspected and 819 birds collected for laboratory tests. In addition, because of a suspected case of psittacosis, the patient's birds (14 canaries and five zebra finches), were submitted for laboratory examination. Of the 819 shell parakeets autopsied, 130 or 16 per cent had enlarged spleens, and therefore, were suspicious of psittacosis. Four of the aviaries tested during February were proven infected with psittacosis.

EPIDEMIC JAUNDICE

At the request of a county health officer, five cases of epidemic jaundice in one family were investigated last month. All cases were in children. Symptoms were typical. No definite source of infection was discovered.

WESTERN INDUSTRIAL PHYSICIANS TO MEET

The Western Association of Industrial Physicians will hold its annual meeting at Del Monte on May 4th, at the same time that the California Medical Association convenes. All physicians are invited to attend. Following is the program, as announced by the secretary of the association, Dr. Christopher Leggo:

9.00 A.M.

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| 1. President's Address | Dr. R. T. Legge, Professor, Industrial Hygiene, University of California, Berkeley, California. |
| 2. Announcements by the Secretary | Dr. Christopher Leggo, Plant Physician, California & Hawaiian Sugar Refining Corp., Ltd., Crockett, California. |
| 3. Demonstration of the Photo-Fluorographic Unit (35 mm) | Mr. Hugo Carlson, District Manager, Westinghouse Elec. & Mfg. Co., San Francisco, California. |
| 4. Photo - Roentgenography in Industry | Dr. M. L. Pindell, Roentgenologist, Los Angeles County Health Department. |
| 5. Industrial Physicians and the Defense Program | Dr. C. A. Dukes, Member of the Committee on Medical Preparedness, American Medical Association. |
| 6. The California Industrial Hygiene Program | Dr. J. P. Russell, Chief, Industrial Hygiene Service, State of California, Berkeley, California. |
| 7. DISCUSSION | |

12.30 P.M.

LUNCHEON

2.00 P.M.

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| 8. The Accident, the Injury, and the Surgeon's Report | Mr. Carl H. Fry, Chief, Bureau of Industrial Accident Prevention, State Industrial Accident Commission. |
| 9. The Los Angeles Industrial Hygiene Program | Dr. A. V. Nasatir, Director, Division of Industrial Hygiene, Los Angeles City Health Dept. |
| 10. Problems of Interest to the Industrial Physician | Dr. D. O. McGowan, Plant Physician, General Motors Corporation, Los Angeles, California. |
| 11. Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment of Occupational Dermatitis | Dr. Louis Schwartz, Medical Director, Dermatoses Investigations, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. |
| 12. Toxicology of Newer Compounds in Industry | Chauncey Leake, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology, University of California, San Francisco, California. |
| 13. DISCUSSION | |

5.00 P.M.

BUSINESS MEETING

LEPROSY REPORTED

A case of leprosy in a British West Indies Negro, aged 56, was investigated during March. The case was far advanced and the patient was transferred to the county isolation hospital.

RABIES CASES REPORTED

During January, 12 positive cases of rabies in dogs were reported in Los Angeles. Most cases were in a single district, and intensive control measures were instituted. In Ventura County a two-year-old child contracted rabies. The dog that bit the child was not recognized as rabid and was destroyed. As a result of contact with the animal, a number of residents of Ventura County are taking the Pasteur treatment. There have been five rabid dogs found in San Bernardino County since the first of the year. Imperial County has adopted an excellent ordinance for the control of rabies. In one dairy herd of Riverside County 15 rabid cows have been found. Since each cow is worth over \$100, there is considerable support for the adoption of extensive control measures.

SHARK MEAT MASQUERADES

It has been determined that probably 2½ per cent of the total volume of business conducted by wholesale fish dealers consists of the sale of shark meat. Furthermore, it is estimated that 90 per cent of all shark caught in northern California is consumed in the southern end of the State. While the wholesalers bill the product correctly, retailers may call the product filet of rock cod, filet of sole, sea bass, halibut, or Catalina white fish. It sells at wholesale for about 10 cents a pound, and since it is highly perishable, must be sold quickly. Shark meat may be sold under the name of grayfish and as such it might have an enviable sale.

WINE STANDARDIZATION

Production and sale of California wines is estimated as showing an increase of 38 per cent. Distribution of dry bulk wine is a problem. Rough handling with a drying out of barrel tops may reduce the quality of the product. One winery uses barrels coated with paraffin. This provides a more uniform seal throughout the barrel and active bacteria are prevented from entering the wood, making subsequent cleaning easier and more thorough. The trend of the industry, however, is toward package goods. During the month 60 official samples of wine were submitted for analysis.

"The city is an epitome of the social world. All the bells of civilization intersect along its avenues. It contains the products of every moral zone and is cosmopolitan, not only in a national, but in a moral and spiritual sense."—Chapin.

TRICHLORETHYLENE VAPORS IN DEGREASING OPERATIONS

A number of organic solvents are employed in industry for the degreasing, or cleaning, of metal parts prior to plating or painting. While these solvents vary in their degree of toxicity, they are all poisonous to some extent, and their safe use requires precautions on the part of employers and employees. Trichlorethylene, which is one of the most commonly used degreasing agents, is a chlorinated hydrocarbon solvent, the vapors of which may cause serious damage to the liver, kidneys, blood-forming organs, and nervous system if inhaled in high concentrations or for prolonged periods.

Several requests have been received from industrial plants to evaluate the potential health hazard to which workmen in the vicinity of degreasing tanks are exposed as a result of the escape of trichlorethylene vapors. During the past month such studies were made in an aircraft factory and a lock manufacturing plant at the request of plant officials and in conjunction with the Bureau of Accident Prevention of the State Industrial Accident Commission. The atmospheric concentration of solvent vapors in the vicinity of degreasing tanks was determined by means of a portable halogenated hydrocarbon detector. At each of the locations tested the vapors were found to exceed the recommended maximum safe concentration for prolonged exposure. Practical methods for trapping the dangerous vapors at their source, and conducting them to the outside atmosphere, thus preventing their escape to the breathing level of workers, were described to company officials, who will take immediate steps to eliminate the health hazards revealed by these investigations.

DERMATITIS DUE TO DYE OIL

Several of the employees in an oil refinery, who remove the sludge from tanks in which dye oil is stored, have developed dermatitis of the exposed skin surfaces. An investigation of this problem was made by the Industrial Hygiene Service of the State Health Department at the request of the company's medical director. Recommendations for the prevention of further cases of illness from this source, including personal hygienic measures and the use of special protective clothing, have been discussed with the plant management, and will be put into effect by them.

"Life is not to live, but to be well."—Colton.

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

Assistance was given to the health officer of Visalia in an immunization program for the prevention of diphtheria, 276 children receiving the first doses. This work will be completed in April. Assistance was also given to the local health officers and county superintendent of schools in Calaveras County in a diphtheria immunization program, 350 school and preschool children receiving first doses.

BOTULISM REPORTED

Three cases of botulism with one death were investigated in San Francisco last month. Three out of six members of a family became ill and one of them died on the day following onset. Symptoms were typical of botulism. It would appear that the food responsible for the outbreak was a mushroom sauce. Laboratory work, however, is still in progress.

CHICKENPOX PREVALENT

Chickenpox and German measles are exceptionally prevalent throughout the State. Nearly 5,000 cases of chicken pox and 3,256 cases of German measles were reported during the month.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending April 12, 1941

Chickenpox

946 cases: Alameda County 2, Berkeley 10, Oakland 80, Contra Costa County 2, Fresno County 5, Fresno 2, Sanger 7, Kern County 19, Bakersfield 8, Delano 6, Corcoran 2, Lake County 10, Los Angeles County 78, Alhambra 3, Burbank 10, Compton 1, Glendale 7, Hermosa 20, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 7, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 85, Manhattan 2, Montebello 1, Pasadena 20, Pomona 1, Redondo 3, San Fernando 3, San Gabriel 4, Santa Monica 3, South Pasadena 1, Whittier 3, Torrance 1, South Gate 3, Monterey Park 4, Madera County 3, Chowchilla 2, Larkspur 1, Mill Valley 3, San Anselmo 10, Mendocino County 6, Merced County 5, Merced 8, Monterey County 2, Nevada City 17, Orange County 8, Anaheim 15, Fullerton 3, Huntington Beach 2, Santa Ana 6, La Habra 1, Tustin 1, Riverside 6, Palm Springs 2, Sacramento County 25, Sacramento 87, Hollister 1, San Bernardino County 11, Ontario 8, San Diego County 5, National City 1, San Diego 37, San Francisco 133, San Joaquin County 16, Stockton 26, San Luis Obispo County 12, Paso Robles 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 9, Daly City 3, San Mateo 1, Atherton 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 9, San Jose 3, Shasta County 3, Sonoma County 4, Tulare County 3, Exeter 4, Tulare 1, Visalia 1, Woodlake 4, Tuolumne County 1, Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 2, Ventura 1, Yolo County 1, Winters 1, Woodland 3, Marysville 1.

Diphtheria

16 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno 2, Lake County 1, Atwater 2, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 2, Santa Clara County 1, Sutter County 1, Ventura 1, Winters 1, Yuba County 2.

German Measles

835 cases: Alameda County 3, Berkeley 22, Livermore 2, Oakland 5, Piedmont 2, San Leandro 1, Amador County 9, Contra Costa County 1, Crescent City 2, Fresno County 3, Fresno 8, Sanger 1, Kern County 10, Bakersfield 2, Susanville 3, Los Angeles County 67, Alhambra 5, Burbank 1, Claremont 1, Compton 3, El Monte 2, Glendale 5, Huntington Park 3, Long Beach 21, Los Angeles 44, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 5, Pomona 1, San Marino 2, Santa Monica 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 4, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 1, Bell 4, Marin County 1, San Anselmo 1, Sausalito 5, Mendocino County 29, Mono County 3, Monterey County 5, Carmel 1, King City 1, Pacific Grove 2, Salinas 1, Napa 1, Orange County 6, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 3, Huntington Beach 1, Orange 2, Santa Ana 12, Seal Beach 1,

La Habra 2, Placentia 1, Banning 1, Elsinore 2, Riverside 6, Indio 2, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 6, San Benito County 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 108, Chula Vista 9, Coronado 7, El Cajon 3, Escondido 19, La Mesa 5, National City 15, Oceanside 2, San Diego 126, San Francisco 38, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 8, San Luis Obispo County 8, Paso Robles 8, San Luis Obispo 7, Burlingame 2, Redwood City 1, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 4, Santa Barbara County 5, Lompoc 5, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 4, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 2, Shasta County 22, Solano County 1, Vallejo 1, Santa Rosa 5, Tulare County 8, Woodlake 2, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 1, Woodland 11.

Influenza

306 cases: Berkeley 7, Oakland 5, Fresno County 1, Bakersfield 186, Los Angeles County 67, Alhambra 3, El Monte 2, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 12, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 4, Monterey Park 1, Gardena 1, San Anselmo 1, Corona 1, Riverside 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 7, Palo Alto 1.

Malaria

4 cases: Fresno County 1, Lincoln 1, San Francisco 1, Exeter 1.

Measles

513 cases: Oakland 2, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 1, Crescent City 2, Placerville 4, Sanger 1, Kern County 9, Bakersfield 9, Los Angeles County 35, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 2, Burbank 7, Compton 1, Culver City 1, El Monte 2, Glendale 5, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 3, La Verne 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 44, Monrovia 9, South Gate 4, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 1, Chowchilla 1, Mill Valley 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 9, Salinas 3, Napa 1, Nevada County 4, Grass Valley 13, Nevada City 98, Orange County 1, Brea 3, La Habra 1, Riverside County 2, Indio 2, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino County 2, Chula Vista 1, Coronado 5, La Mesa 1, San Diego 8, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 3, Paso Robles 2, Burlingame 1, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Shasta County 83, Redding 58, Solano County 6, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 2, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 1, Porterville 1, Tuolumne County 14, Ventura County 2, Yolo County 2, Woodland 2.

Mumps

719 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 20, Piedmont 1, Gridley 4, Oroville 2, Contra Costa County 4, Fresno County 2, Clovis 1, Fresno 1, Kern County 16, Bakersfield 7, Delano 7, Los Angeles County 111, Alhambra 3, Arcadia 1, Burbank 3, Compton 1, Glendale 9, Huntington Park 6, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 61, Monrovia 2, Montebello 5, Pasadena 1, Pomona 6, San Gabriel 2, San Marino 1, Whittier 8, Lynwood 3, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 1, Monterey Park 7, Maywood 2, Bell 12, Madera County 4, Madera 1, Marin County 1, Monterey County 2, Napa 2, Nevada City 3, Orange County 3, Fullerton 1, Newport Beach 5, Santa Ana 7, La Habra 17, Laguna Beach 1, San Jacinto 1, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 3, Ontario 2, San Diego County 11, Coronado 1, La Mesa 9, National City 2, San Diego 97, San Francisco 87, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 3, Santa Barbara 12, Santa Clara County 3, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Shasta County 43, Redding 44, Solano County 3, Sonoma County 1, Tulare County 3, Tulare 1, Woodlake 3, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 1, Ojai 2, Winters 2, Woodland 1, Yuba County 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

57 cases: Oakland 3, Contra Costa County 1, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 13, Alhambra 1, Culver City 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 10, Redondo 1, San Gabriel 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Napa County 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 3, Sutter County 1, Fillmore 1, Santa Paula 1.

Scarlet Fever

138 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 2, Butte County 1, Gridley 4, Fresno County 4, Sanger 1, Selma 1, Eureka 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 9, Alhambra 1, Arcadia 1, Burbank 2, Glendale 1, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 46, Manhattan 1, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 1, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 2, Maywood 4, Gardena 1, Monterey County 1, Newport Beach 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino County 6, National City 2, San Diego 5, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 2, San Mateo County 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Shasta County 1, Santa Rosa 1, Sutter County 2, Woodlake 1, Tuolumne County 3, Ventura County 2, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 2, Marysville 1.

Smallpox

No cases reported.

Typhoid Fever

One case: Stockton.

Whooping Cough

479 cases: Berkeley 6, Livermore 4, Oakland 24, Piedmont 2,

Colusa County 2, Contra Costa County 1, El Cerrito 1, Martinez 2, Fresno County 2, Fresno 3, Kern County 8, Bakersfield 3, Taft 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 80, Alhambra 6, Arcadia 2, Avalon 4, Azusa 1, Compton 2, Glendale 2, La Verne 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 41, Monrovia 5, Montebello 3, Pasadena 9, Redondo 4, San Fernando 3, San Gabriel 2, San Marino 1, Santa Monica 4, South Pasadena 1, Monterey Park 3, Whittier 1, Signal Hill 1, Maywood 6, Merced 2, Monterey County 6, Salinas 6, Calistoga 2, Nevada City 6, Orange County 15, Anaheim 4, Fullerton 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 8, La Habra 1, Tustin 1, Indio 4, Palm Springs 1, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 7, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 11, Escondido 4, National City 7, San Diego 23, San Francisco 58, San Joaquin County 5, Lodi 5, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, San Mateo 2, San Carlos 1, Santa Clara County 12, San Jose 1, Shasta County 7, Solano County 1, Tuolumne County 4, Ventura County 5, Santa Paula 4.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case: Los Angeles County.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

7 cases: San Bernardino County 6, Ontario 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

5 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2, Merced County 1, Sonoma County 1.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case: Los Angeles.

Tetanus

3 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1, Dinuba 1.

Trachoma

11 cases: Fresno County 9, Pasadena 1, Santa Cruz 1.

Paratyphoid Fever

One case: San Francisco.

Trichinosis

4 cases: Alameda County 1, Sonoma County 2, Santa Rosa 1.

Typhus Fever

One case: California.*

Botulism

3 cases: San Francisco.

Food Poisoning

3 cases: Oakland.

Undulant Fever

5 cases: Gridley 1, Fresno 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 2.

Tularemia

One case: Kern County.

Coccidioides Granuloma

2 cases: Dos Palos 1, Yolo County 1.

Septic Sore Throat

One case: Mono County.

Epilepsy

27 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 3, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 13, Santa Monica 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 3, Santa Maria 1, Sonoma County 3.

Epidemic Diarrhea of the Newborn

2 cases: Los Angeles.

Rabies (Animal)

2 cases: Kings County 1, Tulare 1.

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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